

REMARKS

Claims 13-32 have been canceled.

Claims 33-52 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,539,708 to Hofmann et al is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 is directed to an apparatus for posttreatment of an exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a device for metered spraying of a substance to be mixed with the exhaust gas; an exhaust gas line through which the exhaust gas flows, the device spraying the substance to be mixed with the exhaust gas into the exhaust gas line;

an impact plate (18), disposed inside the exhaust gas line (2) in the spraying direction of the device (6,8), *wherein the thickness of the material comprising the impact plate is less than a wall thickness of the exhaust gas line, such that the impact plate has a low thermal capacity in comparison to the exhaust gas line*; and

at least one connection element (26) disposed between the impact plate and the wall of the exhaust gas line, wherein the thermal conductivity of the connection element (26) is low in comparison to the thermal conductivity of the exhaust gas line.

Hofmann et al discloses a method and apparatus for post-treatment of exhaust gas, including a metering system 10, spray valve 12, nozzle/outlet 14, exhaust gas line 4, flow direction 44, adapter 46, and impact plate 28.

The apparatus according to claim 33 offers the advantage over the prior art that the temperature of the impact plate, mounted inside the exhaust gas line, is generally higher, because of lower heat losses, than that of an adjacent wall of the exhaust gas line. This also brings about faster heating up of the substance sprayed into the exhaust gas flow as it strikes the impact plate, located in the spraying direction of the spray device, or on striking its impact face diametrically opposite the spray device. Hoffmann et al lacks any such disclosure.

Furthermore, the invention provides that the impact plate has a low thermal capacity, so that because of its low thermal inertia, it heats up very quickly to the temperature of the exhaust gas, and that for being secured in the exhaust gas line, the impact plate is joined to the wall of that line by connecting elements with poor thermal conductivity, so that at relatively high travel speeds associated with greater cooling of the wall, because of the relative wind, only a little heat is dissipated from the impact plate to the wall. Hoffmann et al lacks any such disclosure.

Hofmann et al does not explicitly disclose that the exhaust gas is made turbulent downstream of the impact plate. Furthermore there is no explicit disclosure of any connecting element in Hofmann et al.

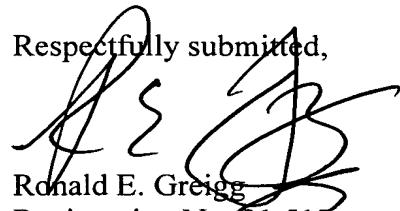
Contrary to the examiner's rejection, Hofmann et al lacks any disclosure of a coating in the region of the impact face to increase the surface area thereof, a static mixer, or that the impact plate is tubular or has a beveled face end.

Appl. No. 10/586,870
Amdt. dated February 15, 2008
Reply to Office action of November 15, 2007

Therefore, Applicant believes that the present invention is not anticipated by Hoffmann et al and the current claims are distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The above amendments are being made to place the application in better condition for examination.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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